

SECTION - 5

PUBLIC CONSULTATION

5.0 General

This section describes the outcome of the public consultation sessions held with different stakeholder groups that may be affected by the project. The consultation process was carried out in accordance with the requirements of Pakistan Environmental Procedures. The objectives of this process were to:

1. Share information with stakeholders on the construction of the proposed Lahore Rapid Mass Transit System (LRMTS) and expected impacts on the physical, biological and socio-economic environment of the project area;
2. Understand stakeholders' concerns regarding various aspects of the project, including the existing available transport facilities and its problems, construction of LRMTS and the likely impacts of construction related activities and operation of the project;
3. Understand the perceptions, assessment of social impacts and concerns of the affected people/ communities in the near vicinity of the proposed project;
4. Provide an opportunity to the public to provide valuable suggestions in the project design in a positive manner; and
5. Reduce the chances of conflict through the early identification of controversial issues, and consult them to find acceptable solutions.

5.1 Identification of Main Stakeholders

During the field survey, significant efforts were made to identify the possible categories of stakeholders and their stakes. During the field survey different stakeholders identified were the shopkeepers, local residents, hospital owners, office workers, drivers, schools, university/college students transport users, pedestrians and representatives from different Government departments etc. All the stakeholders had different types of stakes according to their professions.

a) Consultation and Participation Process

For ascertaining the perceptions of different stakeholders about the project (during/ after construction), meetings were held with them. These meetings were held in an open atmosphere, in which participants expressed their views freely. Informal group discussions were also held as an additional tool for the assessment of the perceptions of the stakeholders.

b) Methods of Public Consultation

Public Consultation was carried out for fifteen days. The following methods were used for public consultation with project stakeholders in order to ascertain the their stakes regarding project implementation.

- Focused Group Discussion
- Scoping Sessions
- Formal Group Meetings
- Informal Group Meetings

c) Categories of Stakeholders Contacted

Different categories of stakeholders contacted, during consultation is shown in the **Table 5.1**.

Table 5.1: Stakeholders Contacted in the Project Area

Sr. No.	Stakeholder Category
1	Residents
2	Business/ shop owners
3	Office workers
4	Hospital workers
5	Schools
6	Bus/Wagon drivers
7	Taxi/ Rickshaw drivers
8	Pedestrians
9	Vendors
10	College/University students

d) Major Stakeholders and their Apprehensions

In the project area, all the possible stakeholders were identified during the survey.

Table 5.2 contains the list of stakeholders and their apprehensions.

Table 5.2: Different Stakeholders and their Stakes in the Project Area

Sr. No	Stakeholders	Stakes (apprehensions)
1	Residents	Dust and noise pollution, privacy / safety issues.
2	Shop owners	Noise, air Pollution, access problem for customers, reduction in number of customers, loss/decline in business as well as no compensation for the renters.
3	Hospitals	Noise, air pollution, access problem for patients and doctors, discomfort for the indoor patients, adverse effects on health due to air /noise pollution.
4	Schools/colleges/universities	Noise, air pollution, dust, access problem for the students & teachers, traffic jam/ congestions, safety issues & disturbance in the classes & studies.
5	Motorized transport users	Provision of Appropriate diversions for management of traffic, dust & noise, adoption of longer routes, increase timing for travelling.
6	Office workers	Dust, noise & vibrations, access to office, disruption in routine work, disruption of utilities
7	Drivers	Provision of Appropriate alternate routes management of traffic, dust & noise, disruption to passengers, increase travelling time and more fuel consumption during construction
8	Government Offices	Appropriate detour, traffic management, sprinkling of water to control dust
9	Vendors	Proper traffic management, dust & noise, vibrations, disruption to travellers, increase travelling time during construction, reduction in customers, decline in income level/business.





Plate 5.1: Formal / Informal Meetings with different Stakeholders

5.2 Informal Group Discussions and Scoping Sessions

Scoping sessions and informal focus group discussions were carried out with the residents, shopkeepers, passengers. The meetings were held at various locations.

Generally, people were found to be aware of the need of the proposed project and showed positive response towards the implementation of the project. The people demanded that they must be compensated properly in case of loss of their properties according to market rate.

5.3 Commonly Raised Concerns and Views of the Stakeholders

The most commonly raised concerns during the meetings are listed below:

- Loss of assets and livelihood impacts should be compensated fairly according to the latest market value.
- Minimize the effects of noise, dust, vibration, traffic and lightening associated with construction activities on the communities living near the project area that can cause disturbances and emotional stress,

- Solid waste produced due to construction of LRMTS should be disposed of properly;
- Avoid dumping of construction material openly;
- Hazardous and non-hazardous waste produced as a result of/during construction should be treated or disposed off properly;
- Sprinkling of water should be regular in the morning, noon and evening on the daily basis;
- Adequate facility for parking of vehicles should be provided in the close vicinity of the project area;
- Corrugated iron sheets should be used specially near the sensitive receptors (hospitals, schools/colleges/universities,etc) to control the noise and dust emissions;
- Diversion routes should be clearly defined and appropriate traffic management plan should be adopted by deputing traffic wardens on those routes to avoid traffic jams, accidents and dust emissions during construction phase of the project.
- Construction should be planned by dividing the project into portions in order to maintain the smooth flow of traffic at the maximum level;
- Utilities disturbed at the site should be restored as early as possible;
- Cutting of trees should be avoided at the maximum level;
- Efforts should be made to transplant the trees according to the available facilities;

5.4 Proposed Measures for Addressing the Stakeholders' Concerns

The contractors and design consultants will include the following environmental and safety provisions in the project design and to protect surrounding communities from the expected impact of construction:

- A tree plantation programme to compensate for the anticipated loss of vegetation during the construction activities, and to help abate pollution caused by emissions, dust, and noise during the operation;
- Construction machinery will be placed in an adequate locations away from the sensitive areas to minimize the impacts related to the noise;
- Drainage system will be provided to control surface runoff;
- Project site will be fenced with corrugated iron sheets to minimize the level of noise and dust on the surrounding areas;

- Utilize spray mist to reduce fugitive dust particles from impacting surrounding environment;
- The utilities to be shifted due to the construction of proposed LRMTS will be relocated on priority basis to minimize the impact on the stakeholders;
- Project facilities will be located outside the existing residential and commercial areas. In order to avoid restricting the mobility of the local stakeholders, construction vehicles will remain confined within their designated areas of movement;
- Punjab Metro Bus Authority (PMA) is bound to comply with the prevailing national/provincial regulations concerning pollution and waste disposal;
- PMA will make sure the payment for the acquisition of properties;
- Compensation rates will be finalized after the consultation of the affectees;
- Solid waste generated during construction and at camp sites will be disposed of safely at the waste disposal sites approved by the City District Government Lahore; and
- All necessary measures will be taken to ensure the safety of traffic during construction, including barricades (including signs, pavement markings, flags, and lights). All such barricades will be set up to facilitate the local traffic.

5.5 Specific Concerns in the Project Area

The detailed schedule of meetings at site with the stakeholders and the issues raised is given below in **Table 5.3**.

Table 5.3: Schedule of Meetings with Stakeholders and their Views

Sr. No.	Date	Time	Participant/ Department/ Institution	Major Concerns Raised
1	08-08-2014	02:50 PM	Syed Afzal Shah Total Petrol Pump	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Air, Noise pollution, traffic congestion during construction phase. • Business Loss due to construction activities. • Traffic congestion during the construction phase, therefore proper traffic control measures should be provided. • Smooth flow of traffic during operational phase
2	11-08-2014	11:45 PM	Muhammad Badar, Employee , National Science Museum M.Saleem, M. Arshad, Khalil Ahmad, Usman (Visitors)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • De-valuation of the property in nearby vicinity • It is necessary for future development. • Alternate routes should be provided during construction phase. • Reduction in visitors during the construction phase of the project. • Dust & noise problem during construction stage. • Economically feasible, as less use of private vehicles will save the fuel.
3	11-08-2014	2:30 PM	M. Mudassar, Station Incharge , Rescue 1122 Singhpura, Lahore.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Health impacts are expected due to dust and noise pollution during construction phase. • Difficulty to approach due to traffic congestion. • Time consumption due to traffic jams and adopting alternate routes. • Diversions should be provided during construction period. • It is necessary for the development of the city. • Project should be completed in time without any delays.

Sr. No.	Date	Time	Participant/ Department/ Institution	Major Concerns Raised
4	11-08-2014	4:30 PM	Waleed Ahmad, Hassan Zahid, Awais Mustaq, Students, UET	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Difficulty for the teachers and students to access the university. • There will be serious parking problems that will cause congestion and heavy traffic load during construction phase of the project. • Implementation of the project in the area is necessary that will sort out the traffic jam issues in the locality. • The project will provide job opportunities for the labour class. • LRMTS is a positive step towards the development of the city. • The project will enhance utilization of public transport and save fuel.